

St Teresa's Parish Church

Minutes of Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes of Meeting held on the 30th March 2017

Present: Fr Jim, Kathleen McMillan, Elizabeth Robertson, John Lawson, Derek Cochrane, Terry Harkness.

Welcome and opening Prayer said by all.

Opening Discussion: St Teresa's Parish 3rd October 1958-2018- 60th (Diamond) anniversary year.

A discussion took place on how to commemorate this occasion in the life of the parish. A general agreement on a plan to have a Mission beginning after the Lisieux Pilgrimage (13-20 August) and 26th August Whithorn pilgrimage with a special guest preacher at Sunday Masses on 2nd, 9th, 18th and 23rd September with inviting Bishop Nolan to make his pastoral visit on Sunday 30th September and make that the Anniversary Mass celebration with BBQ/Special Tea/Bouncy Castle/Face painting etc after.

On Wednesday 3rd October itself perhaps we could have a school mass celebration in the morning and a parish mass in the evening followed by our Ministry Evening. A parish Social event (eg: Family Quiz) could take place on Friday 5th October.

It could also be an occasion to renew our tattered hymn books and buy a new set. Perhaps parishioners will donate towards the costs with a chance to have a hymn book dedicated in memory of deceased family and friends with a Dedication Label.

A display of memorabilia-perhaps this could be a project for the St Joseph's College Caritas Group? This display should reflect the whole 60 years of parish life and not just the beginning of it.

Other ideas would be welcome and will be discussed further at the June meeting.

Deanery Pastoral Council: Thanks to Deacon Willie and Annemarie Budyn for representing the parish at this meeting in Kirkcudbright on Saturday 18th February. The point of the day was for representatives from each parish in the deanery to meet and share good practice and updates on how they are all coping with Embracing Change. Part of that was hearing about the plan for training for a Bereavement Group. This is a Diocesan initiative to train lay people to take Funeral/Cremation Services in absence of a Priest/Deacon. They will be trained in the Rite For Christian Funerals. This group will be part of a parish Bereavement team who will visit those who have lost a loved one. There will be training for this soon (after Easter) and members of the team will visit in pairs.

Evacuation procedures/rehearsal: New procedures are being put in place at the request of the Church Insurers. This procedure will take place soon. The practice of opening the back Church gates and putting keys in both sacristy doors continues to be carried out.

RCIA/Grow in Faith Sessions.

The spirituality of St Teresa sessions are nearing the end of their season. Renewed thanks to Suzanna Boyta for her continuing commitment.

RCIC. Once again we are deeply indebted to our Parish Catechists: Fiona, Elizabeth and Marie for their continuing work with the Saturday Club. Confirmations took place in St Andrew's Church on Friday 24th February with Bp Nolan conducting the ceremony. A review is now ongoing to build on this experience.

First communion day will take place on 18th June-the Feast of Corpus Christi.

Safeguarding/PVG.

John Lawson, one of our Parish Safeguarding Coordinators (Catherine Lavell being the other), spoke about the Safeguarding in the Parish. The annual safeguarding Audit is now complete and with the Diocesan Office. PVG's now require to be renewed every 3yrs. The Diocesan office will notify those who need to renew them and John and Catherine will take care of that for them. John is now a Trained "Trainer" of the Level 1 Safeguarding Course. Our first Course will be given by John in the Baptistry to recent parish volunteers on Wednesday 5th April. It is important to make certain that all parishioners are aware that it is absolutely forbidden for anyone to take up any role in parish led activities involving children and/or adults at risk without being approved by the Parish Priest and completing the necessary Safeguarding procedures with the PSC's which include an interview, diocesan application forms and a PVG check and training. Only when these procedures (which are quite simple and regular enough now) are complete and cleared would an individual take up their work for us.

Improvements/repairs: The flat roof on the Church has recently been repaired and new flooring has been fitted to the Church Bathrooms and the new office area. New flooring has also been fitted to the Parish Hall entrance and male and female toilet areas thanks to a generous donation from Mrs Peggy Marshall on the occasion of her recent 21st Birthday!

School Reports: We send our good wishes to St Joseph's College as they plan and celebrate the Marist Bi-Centenary.

Our Primary School have recently had a great Coffee Morning for the Ababa Project for the child they sponsor through the TEACH fund. Well done for a terrific fund raiser!

Today the children had a very special Easter Service in school to bring this term to an end. It was an excellent service where all the children took part in performing the last week of Jesus' life from Palm Sunday to Easter Day. It was a fantastic service and the children were terrific.

Happy Easter holidays to all the children and staff of both schools.

Ababa Project and TEACH Programme.

The mission co-ordinator, Derek Cochrane, gave our condolences to the FMOL community as they laid to rest the late Sister Colette who had an association with our own mission work from the beginnings in 1985. She was an inspirational lady. May she rest in peace. A vote of thanks was given to his fellow co-ordinator, Beatrice Gardner, for her sterling work in organising the recent Charity Shop week which raised £3,407.48. A marvellous result. This followed on from a great earlier fundraiser on 10th February-the Quiz Night and 3-number lottery which raised over £470. The team cannot thank all its' supporters and benefactors for their dedication and love for the parish mission.

Parish children/Youth work: We cannot thank our young people enough for the great effort they are all making in animating the Sunday Eucharist for us. Well done to them all and keep up the good work.

Justice & Peace:

SVDP: The unseen good work of this body of men and women from the parish continues. House visits, Hospital visits, assistance of all kinds generously given in your name week in/ week out. Thanks to parishioners for their weekly generous support with the collection box.

SCIAF: A great result for the annual collection recently raising £769.90. Wee Boxes should continue to be used up to Easter Sunday and then handed in from then.

Ecumenism: On Monday 10th April there is an Ecumenical Service in St Andrew's Dumfries at 7pm.

Hymn Books: An amnesty to return "Home Bound" hymn books will be made.

Day Pilgrimage to Downpatrick: This day trip took place on Monday 20th March. 43 friends from across both Dumfries parishes participated. It was a marvellous day and was much enjoyed by everyone. A day to repeat was the over-all judgement.

Closing remarks:

All parishioners are invited to attend the PPC as not many do. Please consider the dates and put them in your calendar early enough.

Diary of Events:

- 1) Lenten Reconciliation Service: Tuesday 4th April 2017
- 2) Easter Sunday: Sunday 16th April 2017
- 3) May Day Procession and BBQ: Sunday 7th May at 11.30am Mass
- 4) Parish Concert: Wednesday 24th May in the Church from 7.30pm till 9pm given for parish funds by the Dumfries Make Voice Choir. Tickets on sale soon for £5 per adult, children free. Prize Raffle too.
- 5) First Communion 18th June 2017-The Solemnity of Corpus Christi.
- 6) Pilgrimage to Lisieux: 13-20 August 2018. Bookings will be taken soon.

Dates of Next Meetings: Thursday 1st June 2017 Thursday 21st September 2017

The meeting closed with prayer, hymn and blessing.